CLAIMS
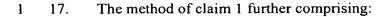
What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method comprising:

2   receiving information about a medical procedure performed for a patient based

3   upon a request from a healthcare provider;

4   performing a query function to retrieve from one or more databases a list of data

5   sources based upon the received information about the medical procedure; and

6   generating one or more documents containing the list of data sources retrieved

7   from the database.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the information about the medical procedure

2   comprises one or more procedure codes indicating the medical procedure performed for

3   the patient.

1   3.   The method of claim 2 wherein the one or more procedure codes comprise

2   procedure codes according to the Current Procedure Terminology (CPT).

1   4.   The method of claim 2 wherein the one or more procedure codes comprise

2   procedure codes according to the International Classification of Disease (ICD).

1   5.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2 receiving information about the patient including diagnosis information based

3 upon a diagnosis of the patient performed by the healthcare provider, the diagnosis

4 information comprises one or more diagnosis codes indicating one or more conditions of

5 the patient based upon the diagnosis.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein a data source is referenced by an address

2 corresponding to a location where the data source resides.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the address corresponding to the location where

2 the data source resides comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein performing the query function comprises:

2 generating a set of queries containing query criteria based on the received

3 information about the medical procedure; and

4 executing the set of queries to retrieve from the one or more databases the list of

5 data sources matching the query criteria.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein generating the set of queries comprises:

2 selecting a set of existing queries that correspond to the received information

3 about the medical procedure.

1 10. The method of claim 8 wherein generating the set of queries comprises:

2   constructing a set of queries based on the information received about the medical

3   procedure.

1   11.   The method of claim 10 wherein constructing comprises:

2   determining one or more medical procedure identifiers from the information

3   received.

1   12.   The method of claim 11 wherein a medical procedure identifier corresponds to a

2   procedure code.

1   13.   The method of claim 11 wherein a medical procedure identifier corresponds to a

2   procedure description.

1   14.   The method of claim 11 wherein the one or more medical procedure identifiers

2   are included in the information received.

1   15.   The method of claim 11 wherein the one or more medical procedure identifiers

2   are derived from the information received.

1   16.   The method of claim 11 further comprising:

2   determining additional procedure identifiers that are equivalent to the one or more

3   procedure identifiers included in the information received.

1 17.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   allowing the healthcare provider to access the one or more documents via a

3 computer network.

1 18.   The method of claim 17 further comprising:

2   allowing the healthcare provider to provide feedback or comments with respect to

3 the information contained in the one or more documents.

1 19.   The method of claim 18 wherein the computer network is selected from the group

2 consisting of a local area network, a wide area network, and the Internet.

1 20.   The method of claim 8 wherein the query criteria include contextual information

2 applicable to the information received.

1 21.   A database of information comprising:

2   a first code corresponding to a medical procedure;

3   a list of one or more definitions corresponding to the first code; and

4   a first list of data sources obtained based upon the one or more definitions.

1 22.   The database of claim 21 wherein the one or more definitions are used to identify

2 a set of documents from which the data sources are selected.

1 23.   The database of claim 26 further comprising:

2   ~~a first set of queries containing query criteria~~ based on the one or more definitions

3   ~~of the first code.~~

1   24.   The database of claim 23 wherein the query criteria further comprise contextual

2   information applicable to the first code.

1   25.   The database of claim 23 wherein the queries are used to identify the set of

2   documents from which the data sources are selected.

1   26.   The database of claim 21 wherein the first code is a medical procedure code

2   corresponding to a particular medical procedure performed by a healthcare service

3   provider.

1   27.   The database of claim 21 wherein the first code is a code according to the Current

2   Procedural Terminology (CPT).

1   28.   The database of claim 21 wherein the first code is a code according to the

2   International Classification of Disease (ICD).

1   29.   The database of claim 21 wherein the first code is a code according to the HCFA

2   Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS).

1   30.   The database of claim 21 wherein the first code is a code according to the READ

2   code classification.

1   31.   The database of claim 21 wherein a data source is referenced by an address

2   corresponding to a location where the data source resides.

1   32.   The database of claim 31 wherein the address corresponding to the location where

2   the data source resides comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

1   33.   A method of developing a database of information, comprising:

2   generating one or more queries based upon a procedure code;

3   identifying one or more documents based upon the one or more queries;

4   performing a selection process to select a subset of documents from the one or

5   more documents identified based upon a set of selection criteria; and

6   storing the subset of documents in the database.

1   34.   The method of claim 33 wherein the procedure code is an International

2   Classification of Disease (ICD) code or a Current Procedure Terminology (CPT) code.

1   35.   The method of claim 33 wherein the one or more queries are based upon a first

2   definition of the procedure code according to a specific classification scheme.

1   36.   The method of claim 33 wherein the one or more queries are based upon one or

2   more additional definitions of the procedure code.

1   37.   The method of claim 33 wherein identifying the one or more documents

2   comprises:

3   identifying a list of databases on the World Wide Web (WWW); and

4   searching the databases using the one or more queries to identify the one or more

5   documents that match the query criteria specified in the one or more queries.

1   38.   A system comprising:

2   a first database to store multiple lists of content links, each list corresponding to a

3   specific medical procedure code; and

4   a first server to receive information about a medical procedure from one or more

5   sources, said information about the medical procedure including one or more procedure

6   codes, the first server to retrieve from the first database one or more lists of content links

7   based upon the one or more procedure codes received, the first server to generate one or

8   more documents containing the one or more list of content links retrieved from the first

9   database.

1   39.   The system of claim 38 wherein the one or more documents generated are stored

2   in a second database.

1   40.   The system of claim 38 wherein the one or more documents are made accessible

2   to a healthcare provider via a computer network.

1   41.   The system of claim 38 wherein the computer network is the Internet.

1   42.   The system of claim 38 wherein the first server comprises:

2   logic to receive the information about the medical procedure from the one or more

3   sources;

4   logic to generate a set of queries based upon one or more definitions

5   corresponding to the one or more procedure codes received; and

6   logic to execute the set of queries to retrieve from the first database the one or

7   more list of content links that correspond to the set of queries.

1   43.   The system of claim 38 wherein each list of content links stored in the first

2   database is identified using a set of queries generated from one or more definitions

3   associated with the respective procedure code.

1   44.   The system of claim 38 wherein the set of queries is used to search one or more

2   databases on the World Wide Web to identify a potential list of content links.

1   45.   The system of claim 38 wherein the potential list of content links is used to select

2   the corresponding list of content links that is stored in the first database.

1 46. A machine-readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a

2 machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

3 receiving information about a medical procedure performed for a patient based

4 upon a request from a healthcare provider;

5 performing a query function to retrieve from a database a list of data sources

6 based upon the received information about the medical procedure; and

7 generating one or more documents containing the list of data sources retrieved

8 from the database.

1 47. The machine-readable medium of claim 46 wherein the information about the

2 medical procedure comprises one or more procedure codes indicating the medical

3 procedure performed for the patient.

1 48. The machine-readable medium of claim 46 wherein the one or more procedure

2 codes comprise procedure codes according to the Current Procedure Terminology (CPT)

3 or the International Classification of Disease (ICD).

1 49. The machine-readable medium of claim 48 wherein performing the query

2 function comprises:

3 generating a set of queries containing query criteria based on the received

4 information about the medical procedure; and

5 executing the set of queries to retrieve from the database the list of data sources

6 matching the query criteria.

1   50.   A machine-readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a

2   machine, cause the machine to perform the following:

3   generating one or more queries based upon a procedure code;

4   identifying one or more documents based upon the one or more queries;

5   performing a selection process to select a subset of documents from the one or

6   more documents identified based upon a set of selection criteria; and

7   storing the subset of documents in a database.

1   51.   The machine-readable medium of claim 50 wherein the procedure code is an

2   International Classification of Disease (ICD) code or a Current Procedure Terminology

3   (CPT) code.

1   52.   The machine-readable medium of claim 51 wherein the one or more queries are

2   based upon a first definition of the procedure code.

1   53.   The machine-readable medium of claim 52 wherein the one or more queries are

2   based upon one or more additional definitions of the procedure code.

1   54.   The machine-readable medium of claim 50 wherein identifying the one or more

2   documents comprises:

3   identifying a list of databases on the World Wide Web (WWW); and

4   searching the databases using the one or more queries to identify the one or more

5   documents that match the query criteria specified in the one or more queries.

1   55.   A database comprising:

2   a list of patients; and

3   for each patient in the list, a set of documents each generated based upon

4   information received from a healthcare service provider following a performance of a

5   medical procedure for the respective patient according to a request by the respective

6   patient's healthcare provider, said set of documents being accessible by said respective

7   healthcare provider via a computer network.

1   56.   The database of claim 55 wherein the information received from said healthcare

2   service provider comprises one or more procedure codes, said one or more procedure

3   codes being used to retrieve one or more lists of data sources to be included in the

4   respective document for the respective patient.

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